

Prior law permitted, during times of public crisis, disaster, riot, and similar public emergencies, where there was a finding that public safety was imperiled, for certain public officials to request that the governor proclaim a state of emergency. Once such a state of emergency had been declared, prior law authorized the chief law enforcement officer of the applicable political subdivision to take certain actions to protect life and property and to bring the situation under control. Included in such actions were the authority to restrict access by persons to places of amusement and assembly, on public streets, and in public places.

Prior law, with regard to the powers of the governor, authorized the governor to declare a disaster or emergency by executive order. Provided that such an order shall remain until the governor determined that the threat of danger had passed or the emergency had been dealt with appropriately. Provided that no such state of emergency shall last longer than 30 days. Prior law included in the governor's powers in such states of emergency, the power to direct and compel evacuation of certain areas when necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery. Also authorized the governor to control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises in the area.

New law retains these provisions of prior law, but excepts uniformed employees of licensed private security companies acting within the scope of employment from these restrictions and authorizes such employees to enter and remain in such premises unless there is an imminent life threatening situation.

New law requires the private security company to submit a list of employees and their assignment to be allowed into the area, to the La. State Board of Private Security Examiners. Further requires the board to forward the list to the chief law enforcement office of the parish, and if different, the agency in charge of the scene.